



CB-700 GC-9P Drumkit

The CB-700 name has been around the drum world for a while, and they have recently released a new full-line catalog. Their drums have nine-ply wooden shells, and are constructed in Taiwan. Components of the GC-9P kit tested here are: 16x22 bass drum, 8x8, 8x10, 10x12, 11x13, 12x14, 14x16 double-headed tom-toms, 16x18 floor tom, 6 1/2X14 snare drum, plus Gibraltar hardware.

Bass Drum

The 16x22 bass drum has 20 lugs with T-style tuners, except at the bottom, where the T-rods have been replaced with square-head drumkey-operated rods. Metal hoops are used on the drum. These hoops are channeled on the inside, and the batter hoop has an adhesive rubber strip at its bottom to build up the channel for pedal mounting. The hoop exteriors are inlaid in plastic, matching the drum's finish.

CB-700's spurs have ratchet angle adjustment, along with telescopic inner legs and threaded tips which can be easily converted from rubber to spike point. The spurs work quite well in keeping the drum stationary, and for packing, they fold flush to the shell.

Fitted with Remo coated *Ambassador*

heads, this "power" bass drum had good depth, but did need some dampening, as there was no felt strip included.

Tom-Toms

The 8x8 tom-tom has eight lugs; the 8x10, 10x12, 11x13, and 12x14 drums have 12 lugs each; the 14x16 tom and 16x18 floor tom each have 16 lugs. There are no internal mufflers on any of the drums. The floor tom has three legs which are held in their brackets by T-screws. All the toms have *Soundmaster C.S.* heads top and bottom, with the exception of the floor tom, which for some reason, came through with Remo coated *Ambassadors*. Their tone seemed a bit thin at some tunings, but all in all, the drums had good resonance and punch. One can certainly get creative with all those pitches!

Mounting System

There is no tom-tom holder installed on the bass drum, since in this particular kit, all toms are stand-mounted. CB-700's Gibraltar stand has elliptical-tube legs set in a double-braced tripod base. The stand has one adjustable-height tier with an internal black nylon bushing, and it also has a memory lock covering the joint.

Atop the height tube is a three-hole platform. Each hole is split, and operated by a T-handle nut on one side, and a hex nut on the other. The split clamp closes around the tom-tom arm to secure its position. The third hole can be used for another tom-tom, a cowbell, cymbal, etc. The holder arms utilize a concealed ratchet angle adjustment. Both ends of the arms have hose clamps serving as memory locks. On the stand end, the hose clamp lip fits into a notch at the split clamp. I found that the hose clamp gets in the way of the T-nut on the clamp, making it difficult to firmly tighten up the holder. Hopefully, CB-700 can modify this.

The other end of the tom-tom arm passes through the drum. The drum bracket has a notch to accept the lip on the memory hose clamp, and the arm is secured in the bracket via a drumkey-operated screw. When the holder arms are locked in securely, this tom-tom stand is quite sturdy. It affords enough height to satisfy any drummer, and offers a good variety of angles. Three tom-tom stands are included in this kit.

Snare Drum

Packaged with this drumkit is CB-700's basic 6 1/2X14 metal-shell snare drum. The drum has ten double-ended lugs, a knob-operated internal muffler, plus a chrome finish. A side-throw strainer is used here, having a fine-tune knob, as usual. The snares attach to the throw-off and butt via glass filament tape strips. This no-nonsense strainer works just fine, and is pretty silent. With the coated *Ambassador* batter, the snare drum had a good crispness at higher tunings, and a nice flat rock sound at lower pitches. Changing to a *Pinstripe* gave an even fatter sound.

Hardware

The GC-9P kit incorporates the new line of Gibraltar hardware. The Gibraltar

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stands combine two concepts: elliptical-tubed legs *plus* parallel bracing on the bases. Extra-large rubber feet are used to minimize "creep."

Two boom cymbal stands are included with the kit. They each have one adjustable-height tier with a memory lock, and use a concealed ratchet for boom arm angle adjustment. The boom arm itself is knurled for the most part, and has a threaded counterweight. The cymbal tilter uses a concealed ratchet, and is able to fold tightly against the boom arm. The boom stands have lots of height, and are able to hold large cymbals easily without tipping over. (Each boom stand retails at \$74.50.)

The *Gibraltar* snare stand pictured in the

new catalog has a ball clamp adjustment and a dropped basket. The one I saw with this kit had a concealed ratchet angle adjust and used the regular basket design with a threaded upper post and carriage nut—perhaps a hybrid of the old-style and the still-to-come style. The stand also has a memory lock at its height tier. Like the boom stands, the snare stand was sturdy, while delicately gripping the snare drum in place.

The best stand in the *Gibraltar* line could easily be the 7207hi-hat. It has a split footboard with an adjustable toe-stop, along with a direct-pull chain linkage. A memory lock is fitted onto the height tube, and there are two sprung spurs at the frame

base. Tension of the hi-hat is achieved by a pair of externally mounted parabolic springs which are conveniently adjusted via lock nuts at the top of the spring holder. This stand reminds me very much of the Orange/Capelle and Premier *Trilok* designs. The stand has superb action, and for its retail of only \$79.50, may be the best in its price range.

A new addition for CB-700 is their *Wedge* bass drum pedal. It has a maroon (!) frame with a single expansion spring stretched upward. Tension is adjusted by a wing bolt. Length of stroke is adjustable, as is beater height. The pedal uses a fat chain for linkage. Clamping is done by a long T-screw at the side of the pedal, which moves a spacer block along the width of the frame to either lift or lower the clamp plate. However, the focal point of this pedal is the footboard. It is of split design with an adjustable toe-stop, but the heel plate is 2 1/2 inches in height. This design places your foot parallel with the floor, rather than the 25° to 35° angle we are used to. I must say that I find this pedal somewhat uncomfortable, as it's comparable to playing with one platform-heeled shoe on all the time. If the hi-hat's pedal were the same, it wouldn't be so different, but the wedge design underneath only one foot can sometimes fool with your balance.

Cosmetics

CB-700 offers eight different finishes: wine wood, walnut, black, white, wine red, plus metallic silver, red, and blue. All the drums have tacked gold-and-black logo badges. CB-700 also offers sheets of re-covering material in eight colors.

CB-700 is getting into the total percussion market with mallet instruments, Latin percussion, marching percussion, etc. Their overall aim seems to be affordable equipment for the student, as well as semi-pro and pro players. The *CC-9P* kit tested here is a good example of that goal. For the price, the drums have quality sound and construction, and the hardware is truly professional in every respect. CB-700 is quite a value for the budget-minded player. The *GC-9P* drumkit retails at \$1,669.50. It is also available with *Mark Series* hardware (*MC-9P*) at \$100 less.

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Correction: In the December '84 Product Close-Up on the Simmons SDS8, the statement was made that "Stands are now included with the SDS8 . . ." Stands are in fact available from Simmons at extra cost; they are not included in the SDS8 kit.

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